

REMARKS

Claims 13-35, 37-41, and 48-65 are pending in the application.

Claims 29, 48-51, and 54-57 are allowed. The Examiner has previously indicated that Claims 15, 16, 18, 25, 37 and 38 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 13, 16, 18, 29, 30, 35, 48, 54 and 57 have been amended for grammatical and consistency purposes. For example, per the Examiner's suggestion, the phrase "comprising the steps of" has been consistently amended to "comprising steps of".

Independent Claims 13, 30, 35, and 52 stand rejected as obvious over Weiss (U.S. 4,749,902) in view of Sekhar et al. (U.S. 6,455,107) and Sullivan (U.S. 3,867,166).

The Examiner maintains that the rejections of Claims 13, 30, 35, and 52 are based on a proper combination of the above references. Applicant disagrees and maintains the position made of record earlier in this prosecution history. Notwithstanding the above, the claims have been amended to progress the application to allowance.

Independent Claims 13, 30 and 35 as amended include that the heating occurs for less than about four seconds. The Examiner has previously indicated that this time period is allowable.

Independent Claim 14 as amended includes subject matter from previous Claims 13 and 15. The Examiner previously indicated that subject matter of Claim 15 is allowable including the withdrawing at a rate of between about 1 mm/sec and 100 mm/sec. Thus, Claim 14 contains subject matter previously indicated as allowable.

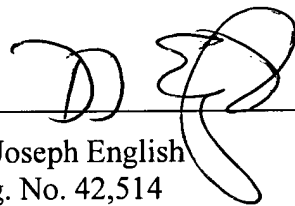
Independent Claim 52 and dependent claim 53 have been cancelled without prejudice to be prosecuted in a continuing application.

New Claims 58 to 65 each depend directly or indirectly from allowed Claim 57. The subject matter of the new claims has been previously presented and examined. Furthermore, the new claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowed claim. Accordingly, the new claims should not impede allowance of the application.

The remaining claims each depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are thus deemed patentable at least by virtue of their dependence, without need to resort to the further patentable limitations contained therein. Applicant refrains from doing so for purposes of brevity.

Applicant submits that the application and all claims presented are in condition for allowance consistent with the requirements of the Examiner. A timely notice of allowance is solicited. A telephone interview with the undersigned is requested if there are any outstanding issues requiring attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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